BB-55 North Carolina “The Showboat”

May 20, 2018 by Gingyflame

Edit: Blog by Gingyflame

This is a long time coming, been over a month since I actually visited this absolutely gorgeous beast. Her name is North Carolina, designation BB-55, and otherwise known as “Showboat” for being so pretty. She is berthed, or rather beached, in Wilmington, NC, off of US-421 on her own little road named “Battleship Road” off Cape Fear River. If you’re on the East coast, or near North Carolina, you owe it to yourself to see this ship. She is by far the best ship I’ve visited, condition wise she really looks like she could be towed out to sea tomorrow, and there is so much to see and do with her, and ticket prices being only like $12 to $15, its a fucking steal. This ship will take up your day. If you plan on going, set aside the whole day, there are tours but you can self tour at your own place and there is no where the tour goes that you cannot go alone. She has so much to look at, so much to see, I really cannot explain how much stuff there is on this ship to see. There are a lot of ladders, or stairs so steep its actually a ladder with a hand rail, and tons of knee-knocker risers in the frames so if you go wear shoes or boots. No flip flops, no slides, no heels. You can bring your own food and drink, too, and drink is highly encouraged because she is not under and AC, well ventilated in most parts but aside from fans there is no temperature control on her.

So I’m pausing to try and formulate just what all I should say about her, literally I am overwhelmed with stuff to talk about.

So I took close to 600 pictures and videos, but I’m not putting them all up because, fuck, but in some of the pictures I’ve taken you will see her T H I C C and beautiful hull, her awesome guns, her massive size, her strong armor, just, just so much. I really do not know what to say, I do not know what to describe. If you want to know something specific about her just ask, I’ll eagerly answer your questions.

As for recommendation and things you should know before you go:

Wear close toed and good fitting shoes, and make sure your feet will be comfortable. There is a lot of vertical movement on her, and no elevators, there are trip and toe-stubbing hazards all over her. Watch where you step.

Bring water or something to hold water. She is hot (and hawt), and big, and there’s usually a lot of people in very tight places entirely enclosed in metal.

She is tight, if you are claustrophobic, I’m sorry, but there are just too many places where you will be grinding against a wall or hunching over to fit into a ladderwell or space.

Don’t wear baggy clothing or have many things dangling from your person. There are gears and handles and pipes and grates and such EVERYWHERE, things like that WILL get snagged on them and as welcome as holes might be at the time in clothes it’s not fun tearing clothes.

There are some spaces that are more accessible to others, and those that are not as accessible than most. An example is her rudder room. The ladder into her rudder rooms requires going down a very steep ladder, that is maybe only a foot wide, through a hatch that’ll probably make you lean on the ladder to fit. Before you go gung-ho into these places look very closely to see if you can actually fit in there realistically. When I was there a woman locked up on this ladder and needed to be helped out. It’s very rare that it happens they say, but just be careful.

Wear a hat. You’re going to hit your head. You will. Wear a hat to pad the hit, please. And be very careful, I’m not a tall guy yet I still hit my head just trying to stand up in the turret.

ALMOST EVERYTHING IS ACCESSIBLE! Yes! You can climb into turret 3, climb into the dual-purpose 5″ batter mount, play around with some 20mm guns, and when I first went you could sit on the 40mm Bofors turret and swing it around with the manual ols. But last time I went the Bofors were off limits, but people still messed with the guns as you’ll see in the video, if I pos

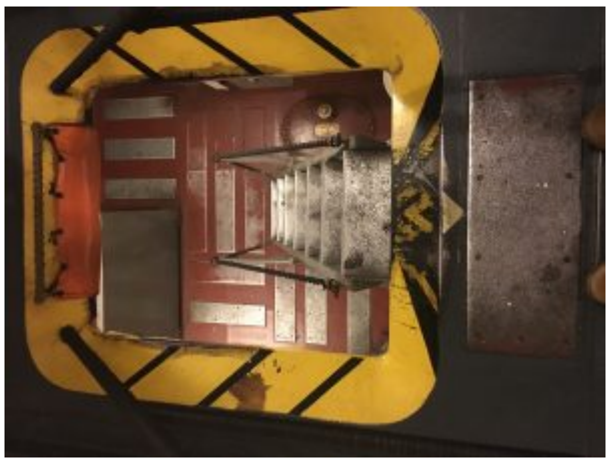
There are some breathtaking views from her high rises. You want some elaboration? It’s literally what I just said.

She is only open from 8AM to 5PM. Every day of the week. Holidays are weird so check her website.

Other than that I really got nothing. Now I just have to pray that all my pictures I’m gonna try to upload fucking work.

Also, she is sexy af.

Pipe Identification

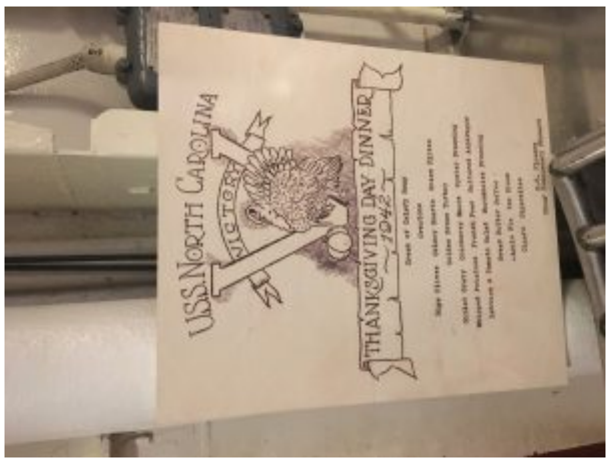


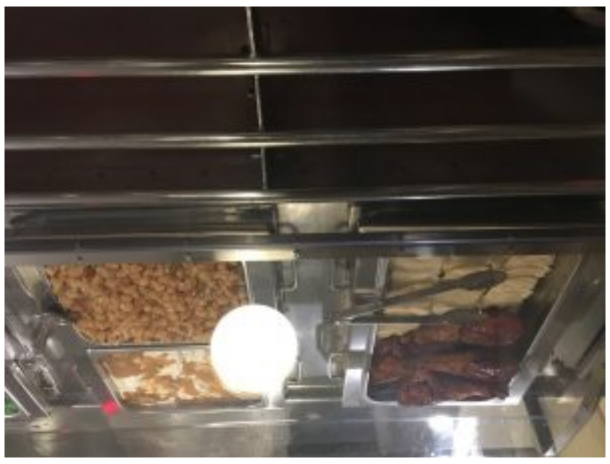
After Steering & Ship's Services
Area Tour Loop

Gedunk:
The Ship's Soda Fountain
Crew Memories

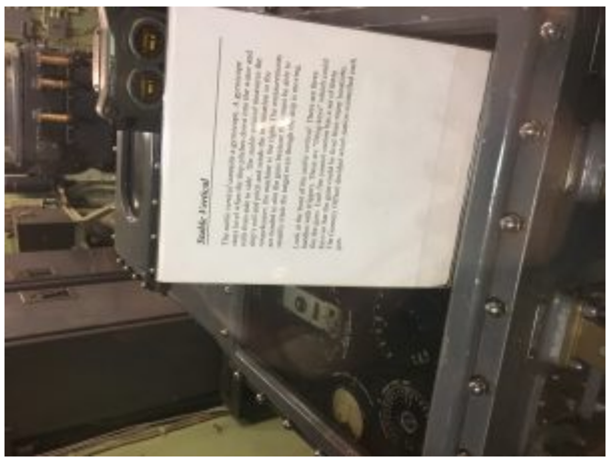
Soda Fountain

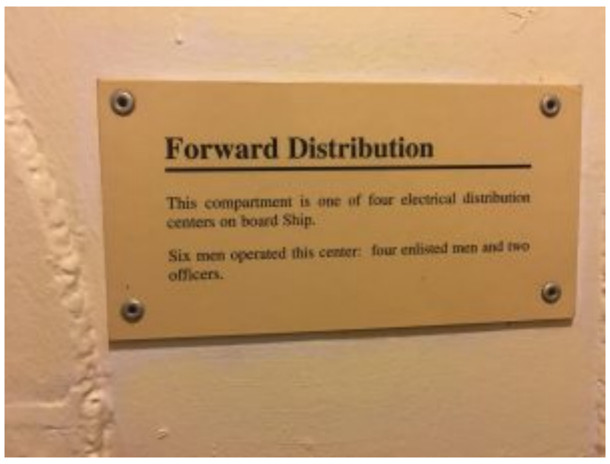
Scullery


U.S.S. North Carolina
Victory
Thanksgiving Day Dinner
1942



Butcher Shop

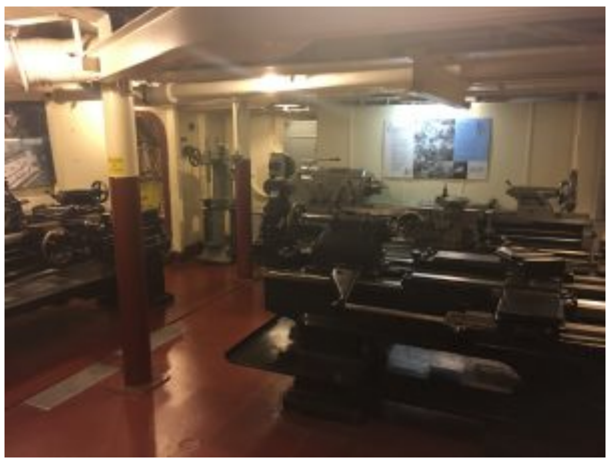

Stable Vertical

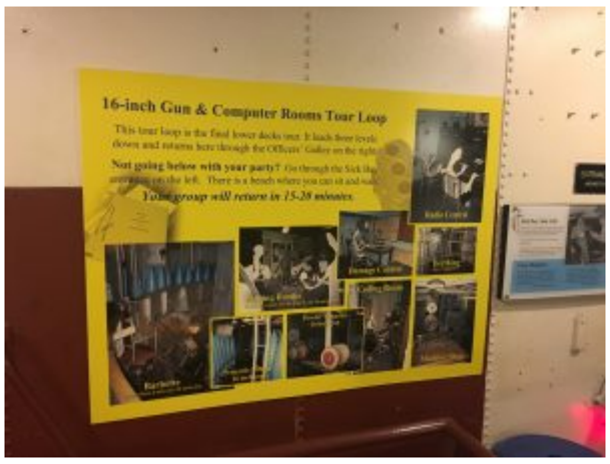


Forward Distribution

This compartment is one of four electrical distribution centers on board Ship.

Six men operated this center: four enlisted men and two officers.





16-inch Gun & Computer Rooms Tour Loop

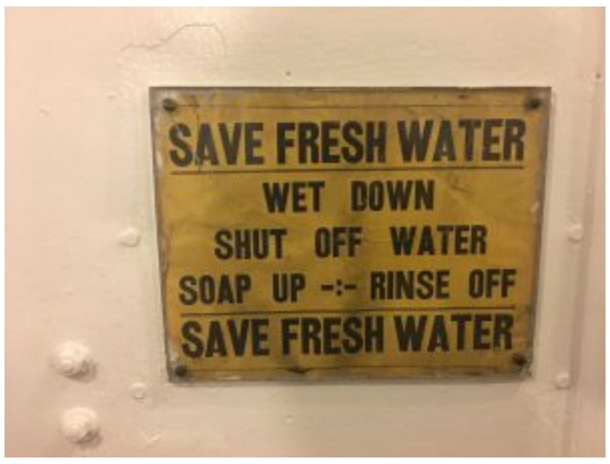
This tour loop is the final lower decks tour. It leads three levels down and returns here through the Officers' Galley on the right.

Not going below with your party? Go through the Sick Bay [illegible] on the left. There is a bench where you can sit and wait.

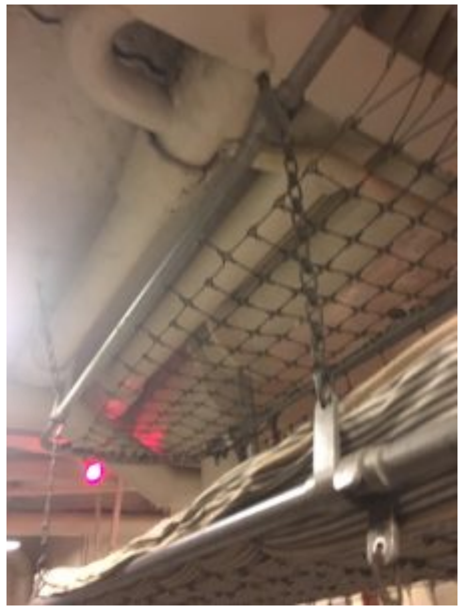
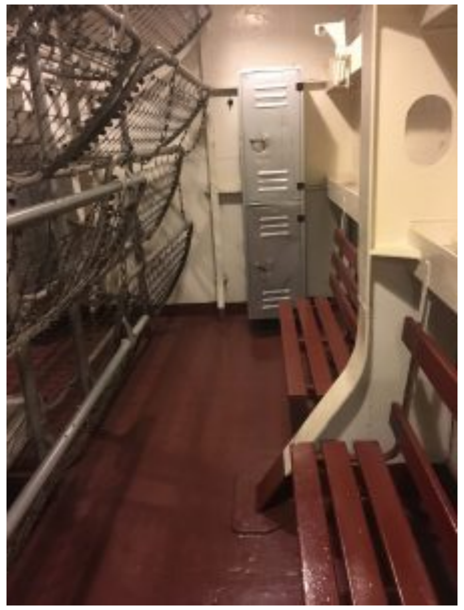
Your group will return in 15-20 minutes.

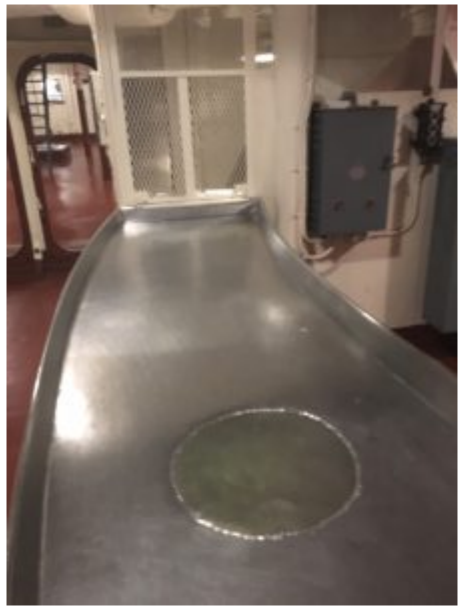
Radio Central
Barbette

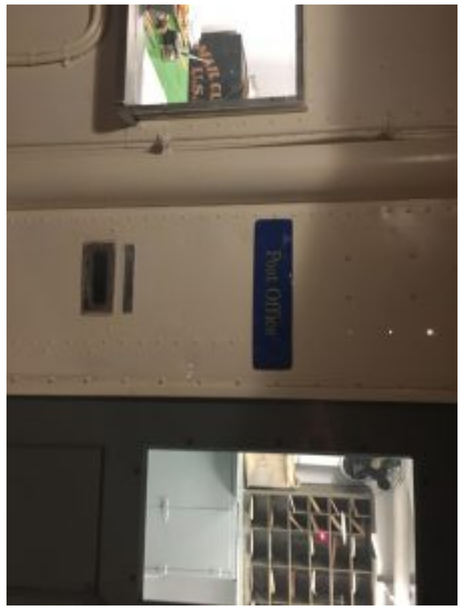
INCINERATOR



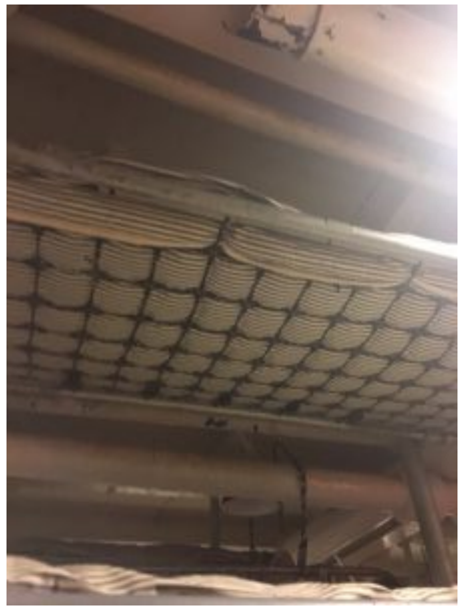
SAVE FRESH WATER
WET DOWN
SHUT OFF WATER
SOAP UP -:- RINSE OFF
SAVE FRESH WATER

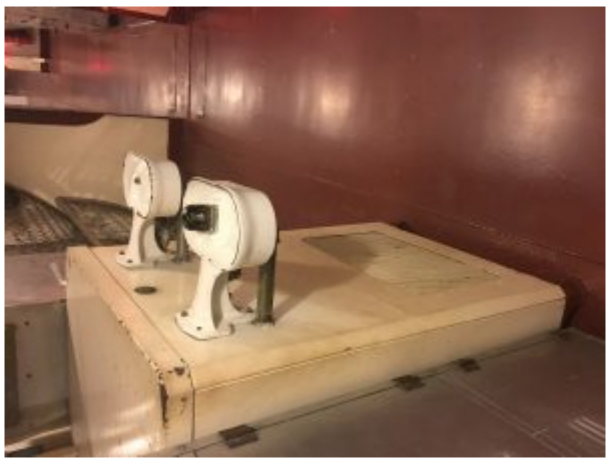





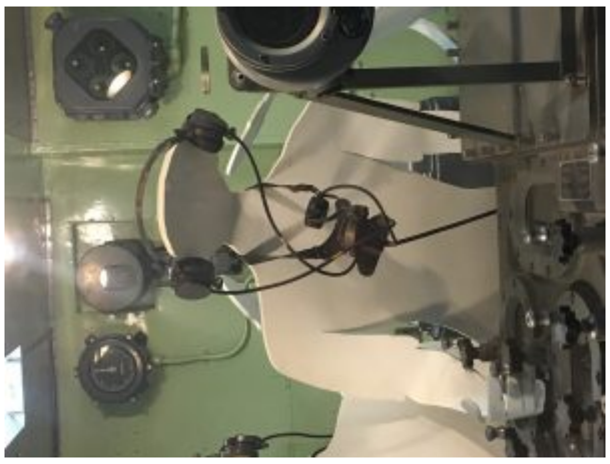

Post Office

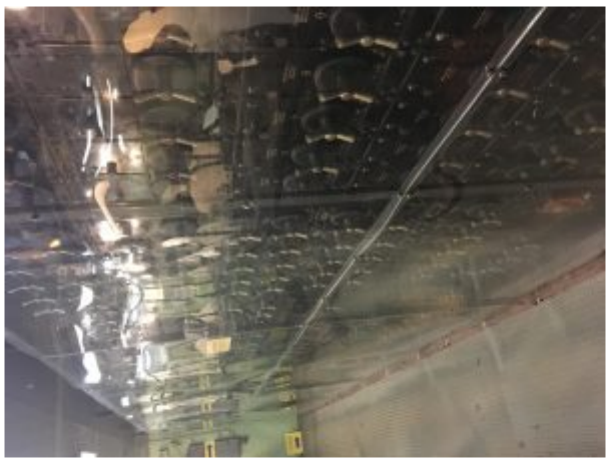
Scullery

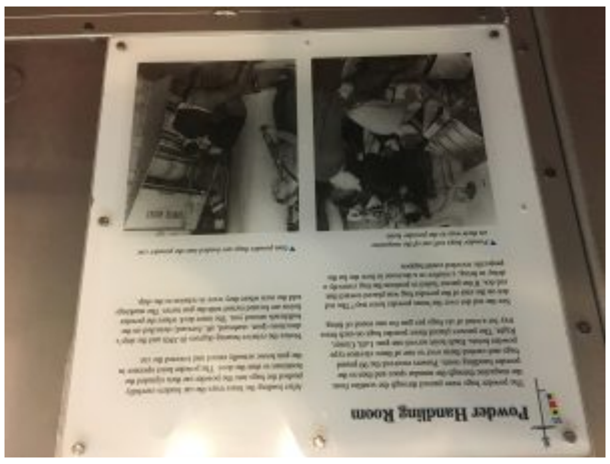
TOUR
STOP




ACCESS
DECK
75
SEARCHLIGHT

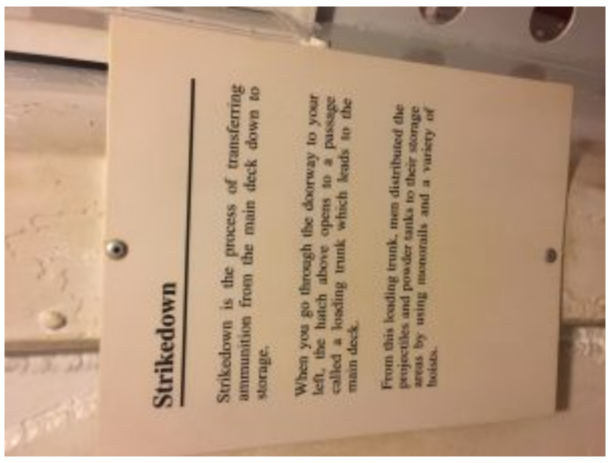




CENTER

Powder Handling Room

Projectile Passing Through
This projectile has come down the loading trunk behind you and is ready for the electric chain hoist to lift it up to storage.

EMERGENCY

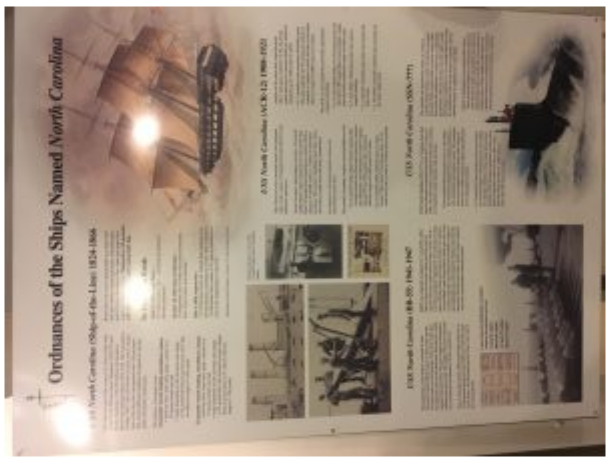


Strikedown

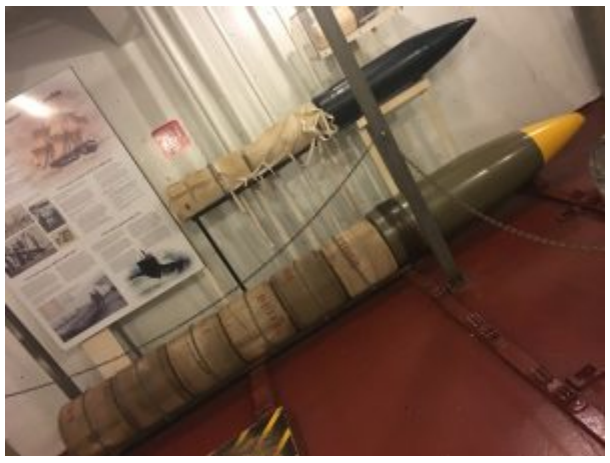
Strikedown is the process of transferring ammunition from the main deck down to storage.

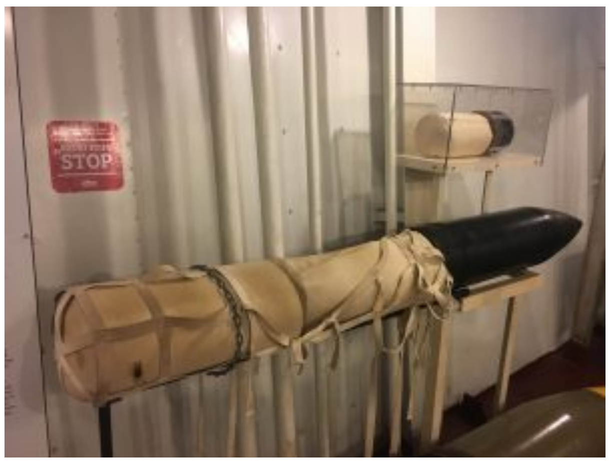
When you go through the doorway to your left, the hatch above opens to a passage called a loading trunk which leads to the main deck.

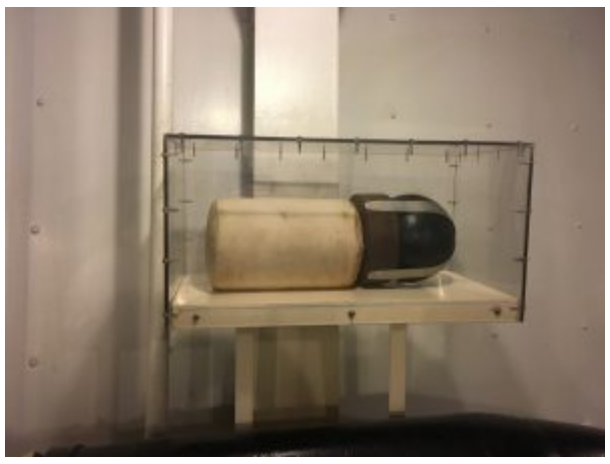
From this loading trunk, men distributed the projectiles and powder tanks to their storage areas by using monorails and a variety of hoists.

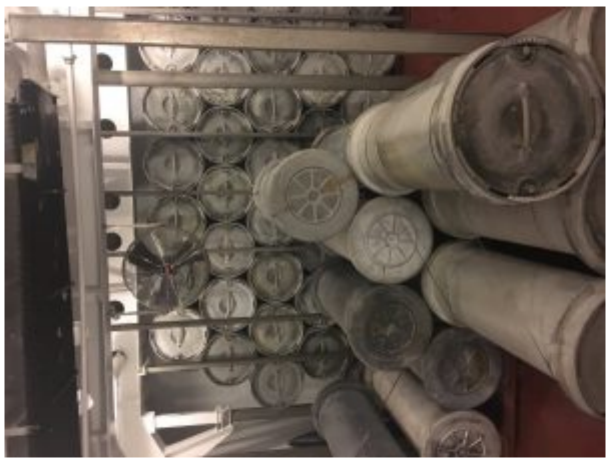


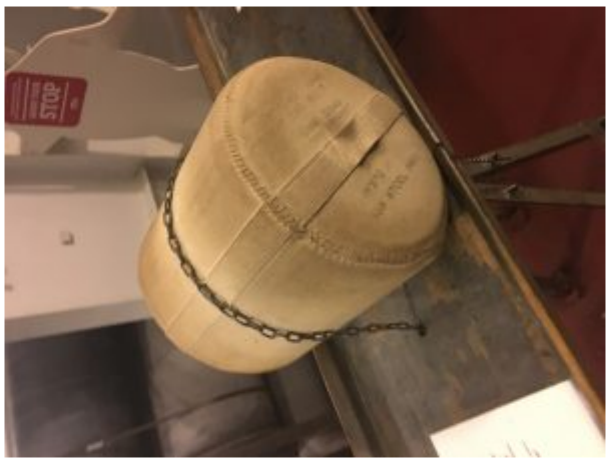
Ordnances of the Ships Named *North Carolina*

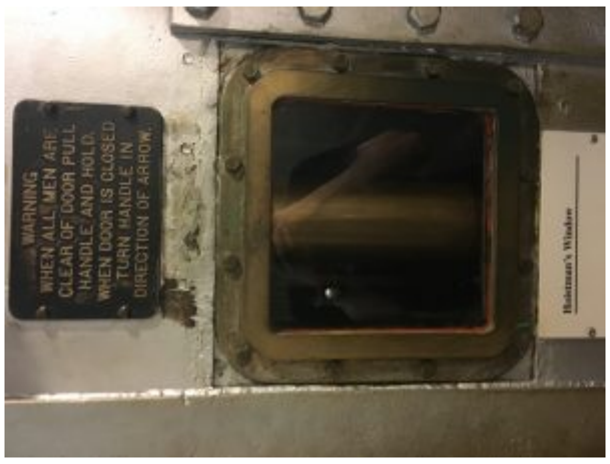




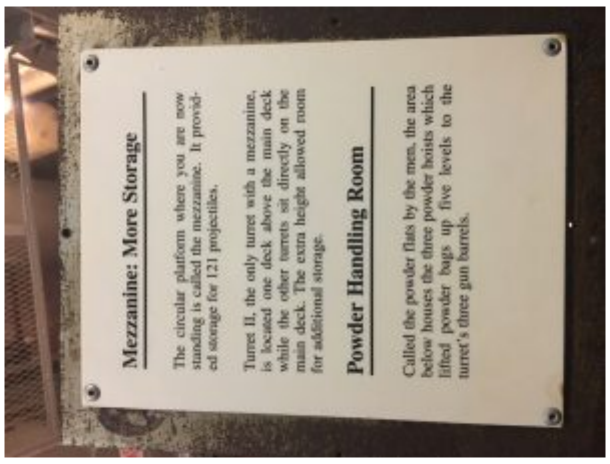







WARNING
WHEN ALL MEN ARE
CLEAR OF DOOR PULL
HANDLE AND HOLD.
WHEN DOOR IS CLOSED
TURN HANDLE IN
DIRECTION OF ARROW.
Hoistman's Window

FENCING NOT ORIGINAL
Fencing added for public safety.



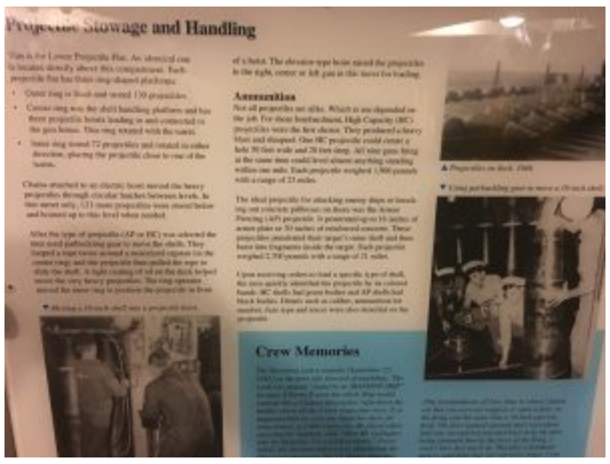
Mezzanine: More Storage

The circular platform where you are now standing is called the mezzanine. It provided storage for 121 projectiles.

Turret II, the only turret with a mezzanine, is located one deck above the main deck while the other turrets sit directly on the main deck. The extra height allowed room for additional storage.

Powder Handling Room

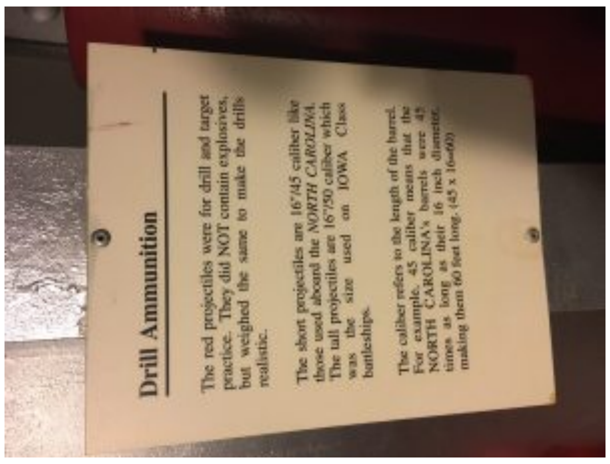
Called the powder flats by the men, the area below houses the three powder hoists which lifted powder bags up five levels to the turret's three gun barrels.



Projectile Stowage and Handling

Ammunition

Crew Memories

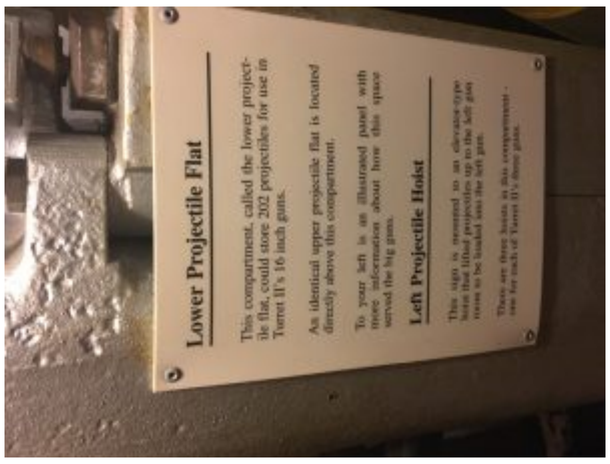


Drill Ammunition

The red projectiles were for drill and target practice. They did NOT contain explosives, but weighed the same to make the drills realistic.

The short projectiles are 16"/45 caliber like those used aboard the *NORTH CAROLINA*. The tall projectiles are 16"/50 caliber which was the size used on IOWA Class battleships.

The caliber refers to the length of the barrel. For example, 45 caliber means that the NORTH CAROLINA's barrels were 45 times as long as their 16 inch diameter, making them 60 feet long. (45 x 16=60')



Lower Projectile Flat

This compartment, called the lower projectile flat, could store 202 projectiles for use in Turret II's 16 inch guns.

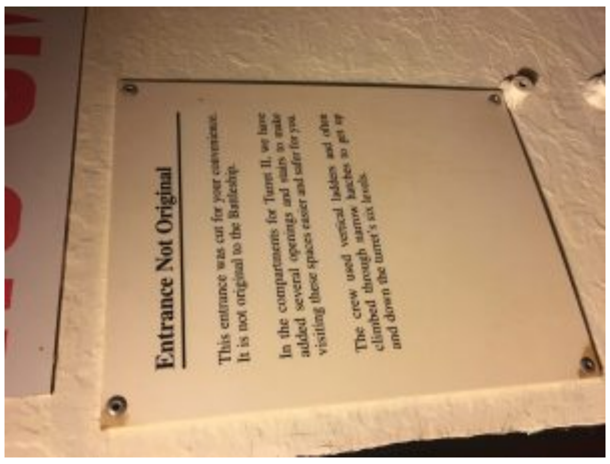
An identical upper projectile flat is located directly above this compartment.

To your left is an illustrated panel with more information about how this space served the big guns.

Left Projectile Hoist

This sign is mounted to an elevator-type hoist that lifted projectiles up to the left gun room to be loaded into the left gun.

There are three hoists in this compartment - one for each of Turret II's three guns.

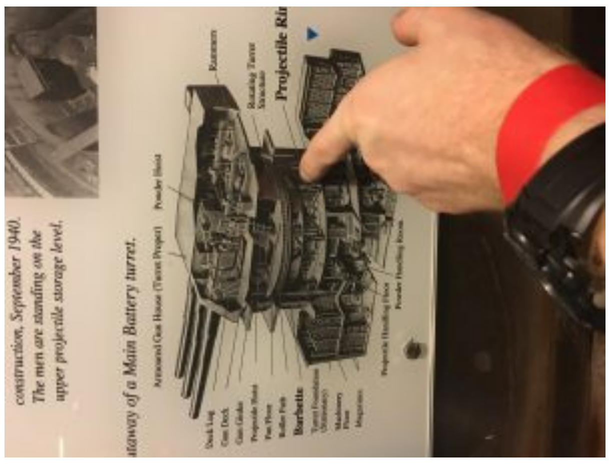


Entrance Not Original

This entrance was cut for your convenience. It is not original to the Battleship.

In the compartments for Turret II, we have added several openings and stairs to make visiting these spaces easier and safer for you.

The crew used vertical ladders and often climbed through narrow hatches to get up and down the turret's six levels.



construction, September 1940. The men are standing on the upper projectile storage level.

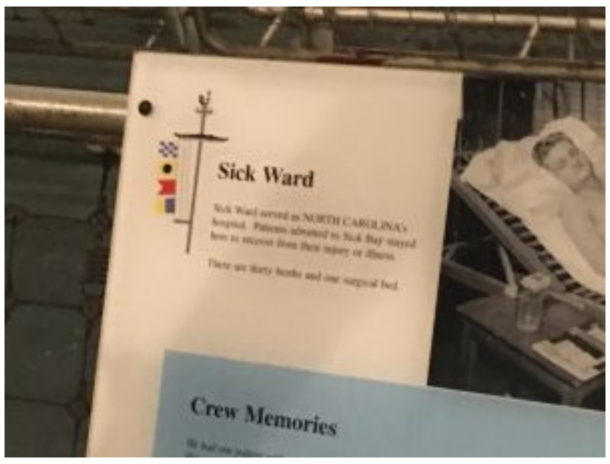
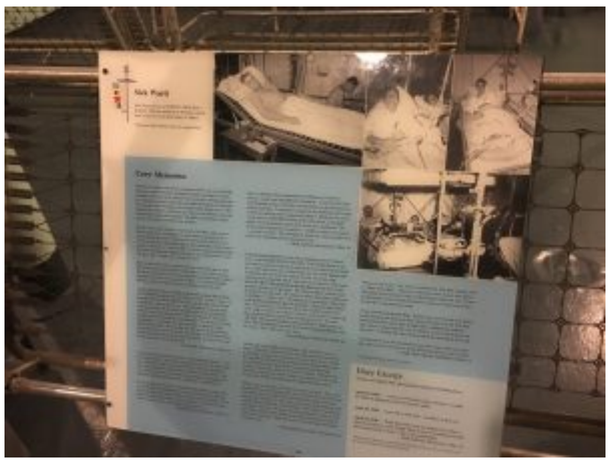
taway of a Main Battery turret.

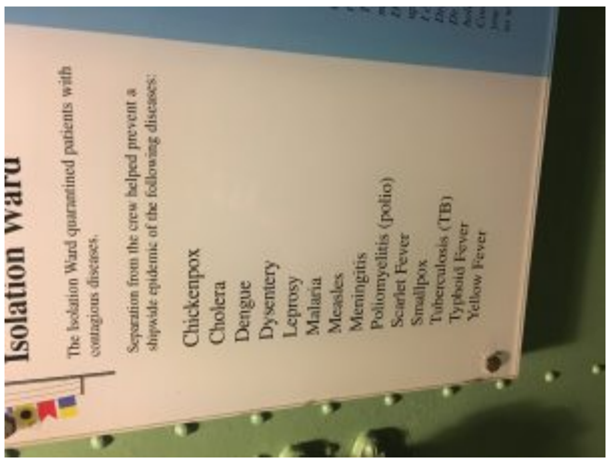
Armoured Gun House (Turret Proper)
Powder Hoist
Rammers
Rotating Turret Structure
Projectile Ri
Deck Lug
Gun Deck
Gun Girder
Projectile Hoist
Pan Floor
Roller Path
Barbette
Turret Foundation (Stationary)
Machinery Flat
Magazines
Projectile Handling Flats
Powder Handling Room

Dark Room

Crew Memories

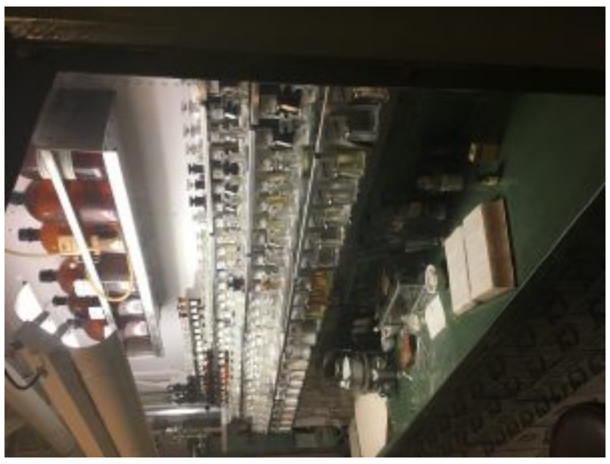
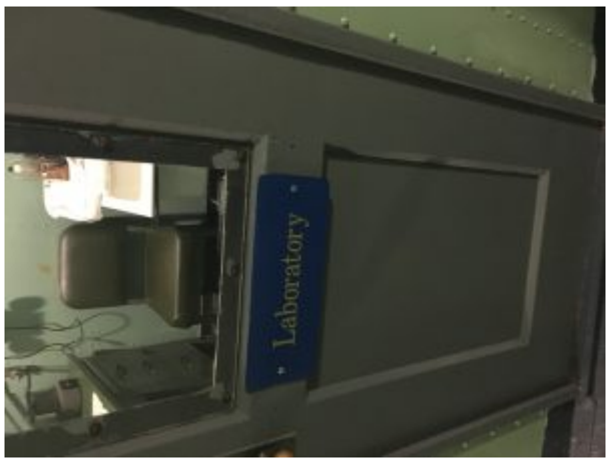
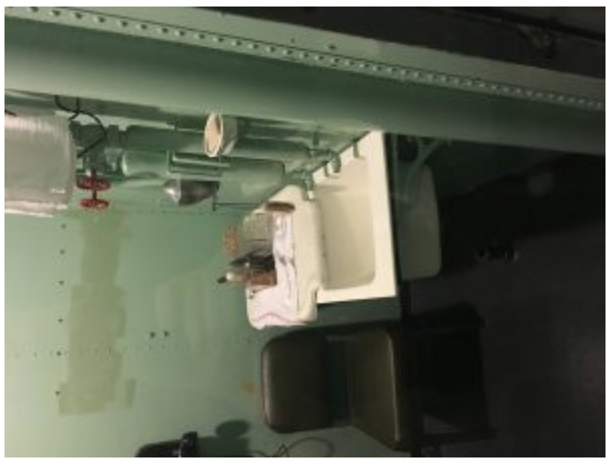
Warrant Officer's Mess and Pantry

Sick Bay Head
Who are they called heads?

Sick Ward
Sick Ward served as NORTH CAROLINA's hospital. Patients admitted to Sick Bay stayed here to recover from their injury or illness.
There are thirty bunks and one surgical bed.
Crew Memories

Sick Ward
Crew Memories


Isolation Ward
The Isolation Ward quarantined patients with contagious diseases.
Separation from the crew helped prevent a shipwide epidemic of the following diseases:
Chickenpox
Cholera
Dengue
Dysentery
Leprosy
Malaria
Measles
Meningitis
Poliomyelitis (polio)
Scarlet Fever
Smallpox
Tuberculosis (TB)
Typhoid Fever
Yellow Fever

Doctor's Office

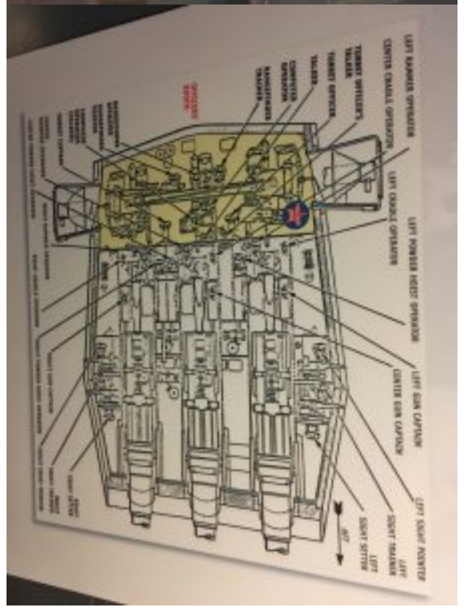
Dispensary

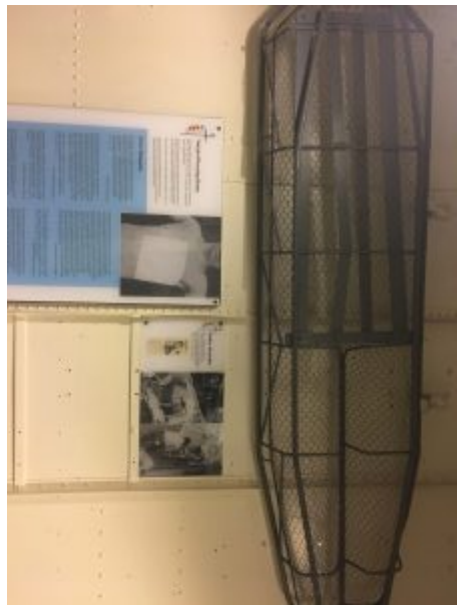


Laboratory


IN MEMORIAM
THE U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA
BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL COMMEMORATES
THE HEROIC PARTICIPATION OF THE
MEN AND WOMEN OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE PROSECUTION AND VICTORY
OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND
PERPETUATES THE MEMORY OF THE
MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND NORTH
CAROLINIANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN THAT WAR

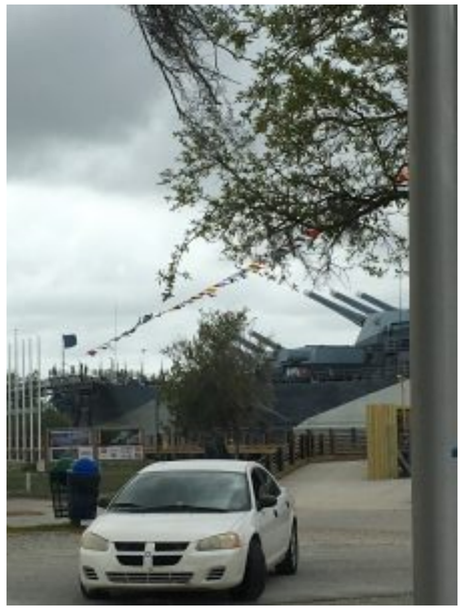
Stokes Stretcher
Stokes stretchers were used to transport patients through hatches, up or down ladders, and even between ships. The canvas straps secured the patient so he would not fall out.
MEDICOS

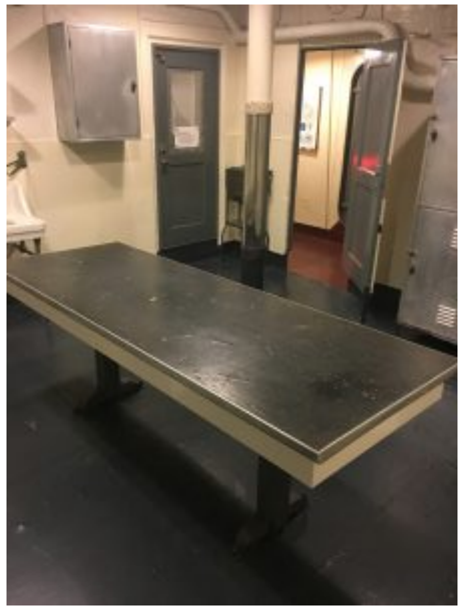
OPERATING ROOM
Scrub Room


LEFT RAMMER OPERATOR
CENTER CRADLE OPERATOR
LEFT CRADLE OPERATOR
LEFT POWDER HOIST OPERATOR
CENTER GUN CAPTAIN
LEFT GUN CAPTAIN
LEFT SIGHT POINTER
LEFT SIGHT TRAINER
LEFT SIGHT SETTER
TURRET OFFICER'S TALKER
TURRET OFFICER
TALKER
COMPUTER OPERATOR
RANGEFINDER TRACKER
AFT



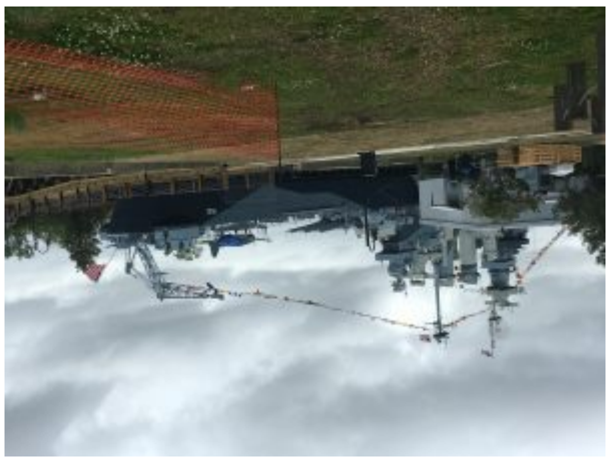
Sterilizer Room





Sterilizer Room
The Sterilizer Room housed the autoclaves used to sterilize Sick Bay's surgical and medical instruments.
Autoclaves use heat and steam to sterilize. They were kept in a separate room to keep excessive heat and moisture out of the Operating Rooms.

OPERATING
Scrub Room



U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
1986

Her nickname “Showboat” was given to her after WW2, and after she had been retired, decom’d, and purchased by North Carolina, by the Governor of North Carolina, because of how pretty the ship was sailing down through the river. The name stuck and, well, she sure is perdy.
After the attack on Pearl Harbor NC was the first ship to pull into harbor, and being the newest ship in the USN, the sailors and survivors said that she was the most beautiful ship that they had ever seen.

Just some fun facts about this beauty.

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1 COMMENT

Semhex 5 years ago

Hi all!!!

Guest

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requesting does not exist
or is no longer available.

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